

FRESH POND RESERVATION

Circulation and Access Plan

Public Information Meeting No. 2

Thursday, December 7th, 2006



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Agenda:

- 2000 Master Plan Vision and Policies
- Circulation and Access Plan – Need and Goals
- Overview of Reservation Trails and Access Points
- Identify Public Survey Process and Findings
- Outline Next Steps/Review Draft Goals

FRESH POND RESERVATION

Fresh Pond Reservation Circulation and Access Plan

A joint effort by:

- Cambridge Water Department
- Fresh Pond Advisory Board
- City of Cambridge GIS Department
- Reservation Users (residents & non-residents)
- Consultant

Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan (2000)

Vision Statement

Preservation of:

- Water quality
- Recreational open space
- Natural green spaces
- Wildlife habitat
- Refuge from a hectic urban life

Need For Circulation and Access Plan?

- Address issues regarding community access into the Reservation
- Plan for people's use of and movement through the Reservation
- Provide for and accommodate the multiple functions of the Reservation, as identified in the 2000 Master Plan

Need For Circulation and Access Plan?

- Provide a comprehensive plan that integrates policies and standards outlined in the 2000 Master Plan and 2004 Design Guidelines Appendix

Circulation and Access Plan

User Survey Process

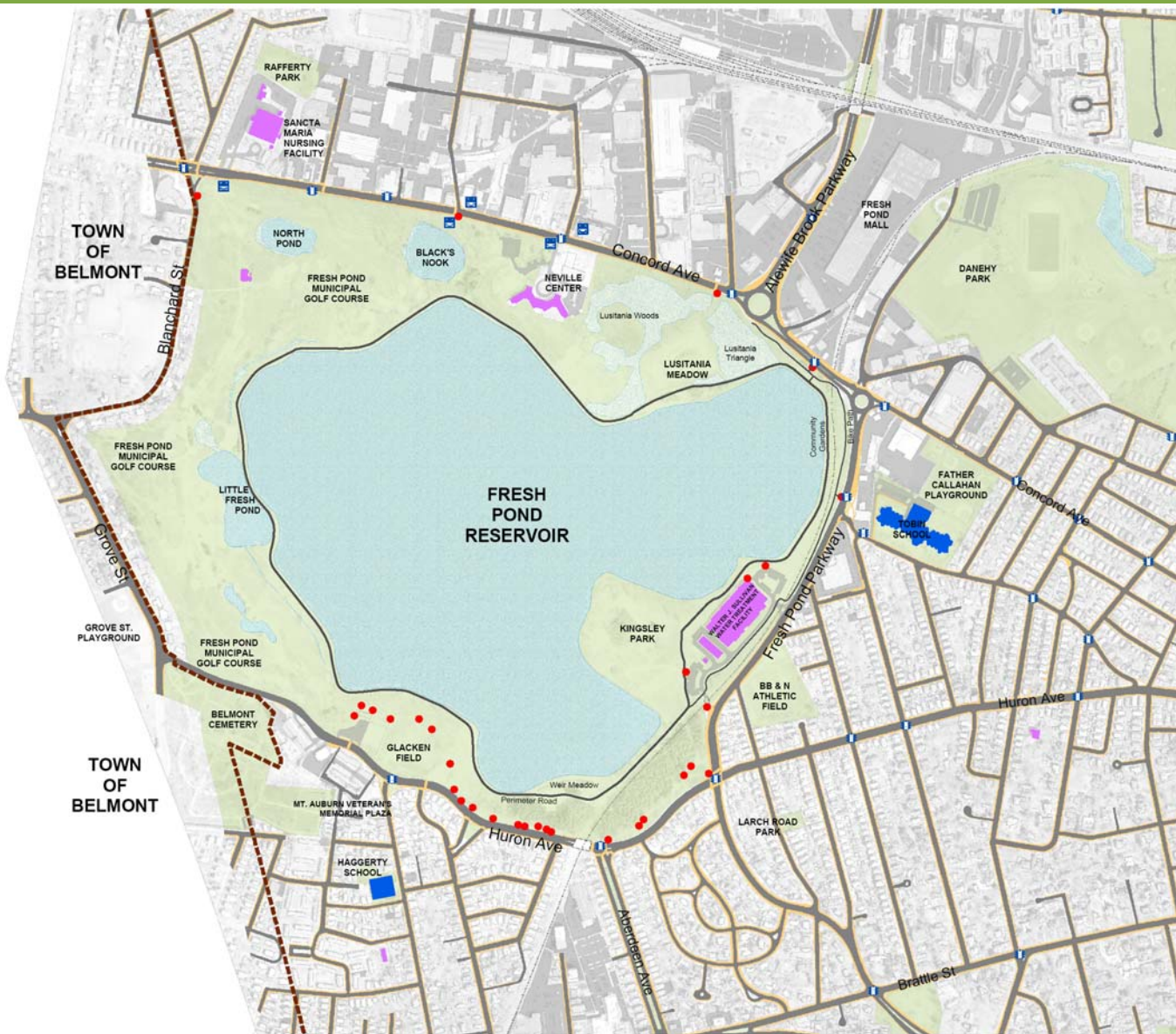
Goals:

- Mechanism for public participation and consensus-building
- Understand user issues and develop realistic and relevant goals and solutions

Public Process:

- 200 Reservation Users completed Public Survey
- Project Webpage created
- Public Site Walk held Saturday November 4th
- Summarize findings and solicit additional feedback for draft Circulation and Access Plan

Existing Conditions Immediate Surroundings



Issues:

- Neighborhood connectivity; community access
- Access for educational, institutional, commercial facilities
- Regional connections

LEGEND

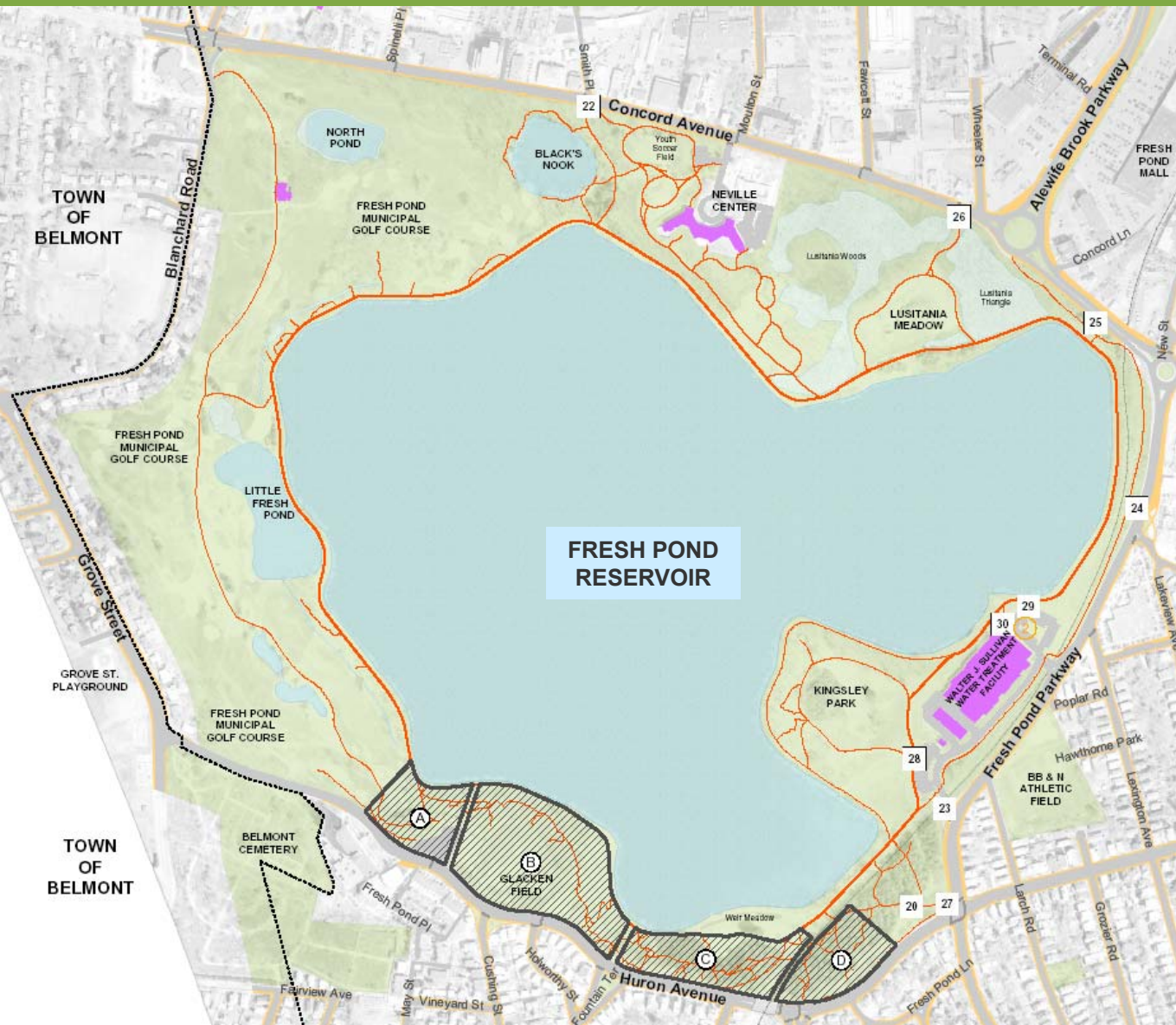
- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Open Space
- City Boundary
- Railway Lines
- Major Streets
- Sidewalks
- Paved Areas
- Institutional Buildings
- Schools
- Crosswalks
- Traffic Signals
- Bus Stop
- Access Points



0 340 680 1,020 1,360 Feet

Existing Conditions

Fresh Pond Reservation – User Access

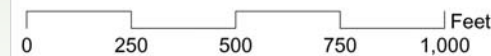


Issues:

- Insufficient official access points
- Distribution of existing official access points

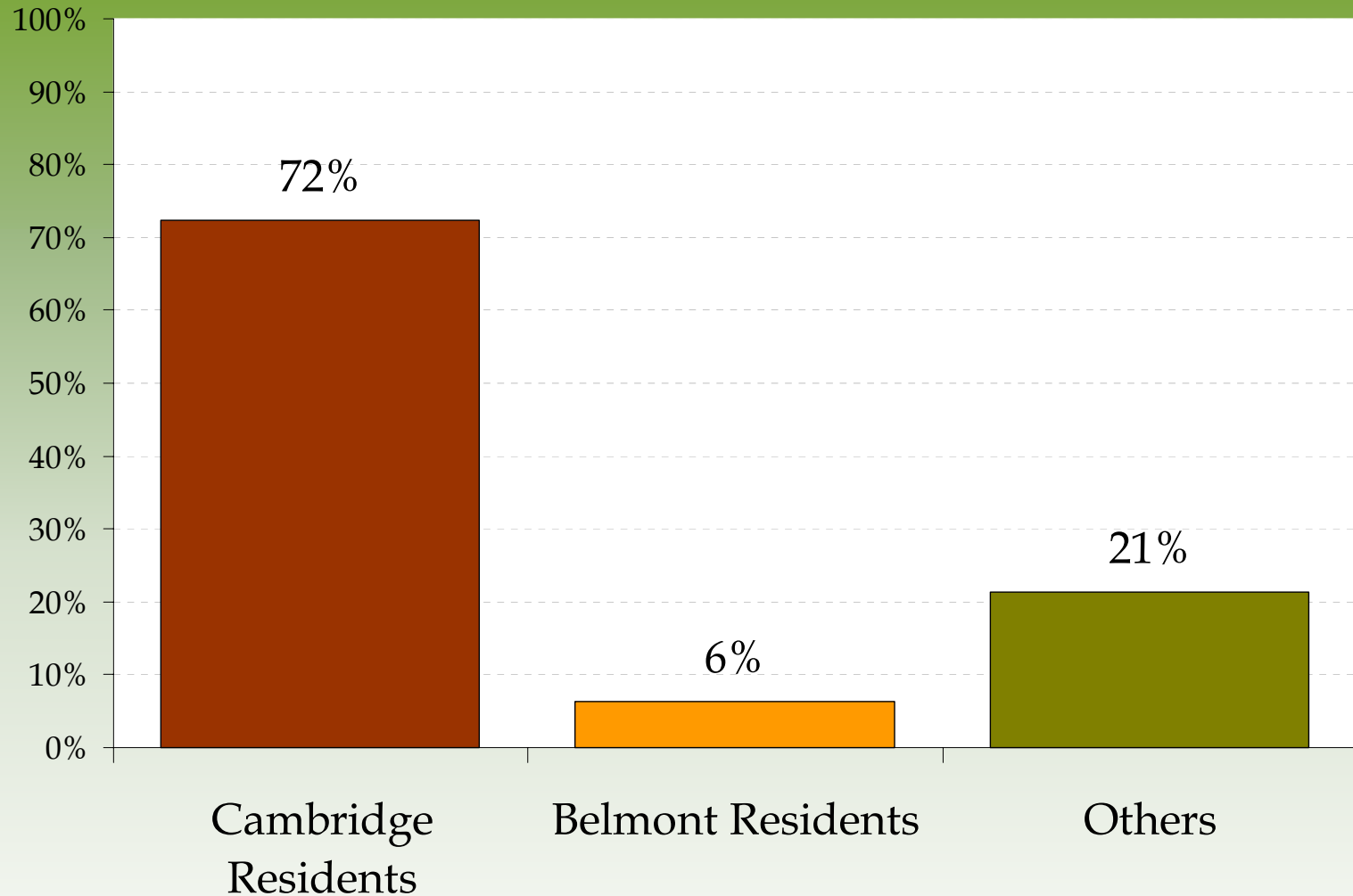
LEGEND

- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Open Space
- City Boundary
- Railway Lines
- Major Streets
- Sidewalks
- Crosswalks
- Paths and trails
- Access zones
- Access points



Public Survey Results

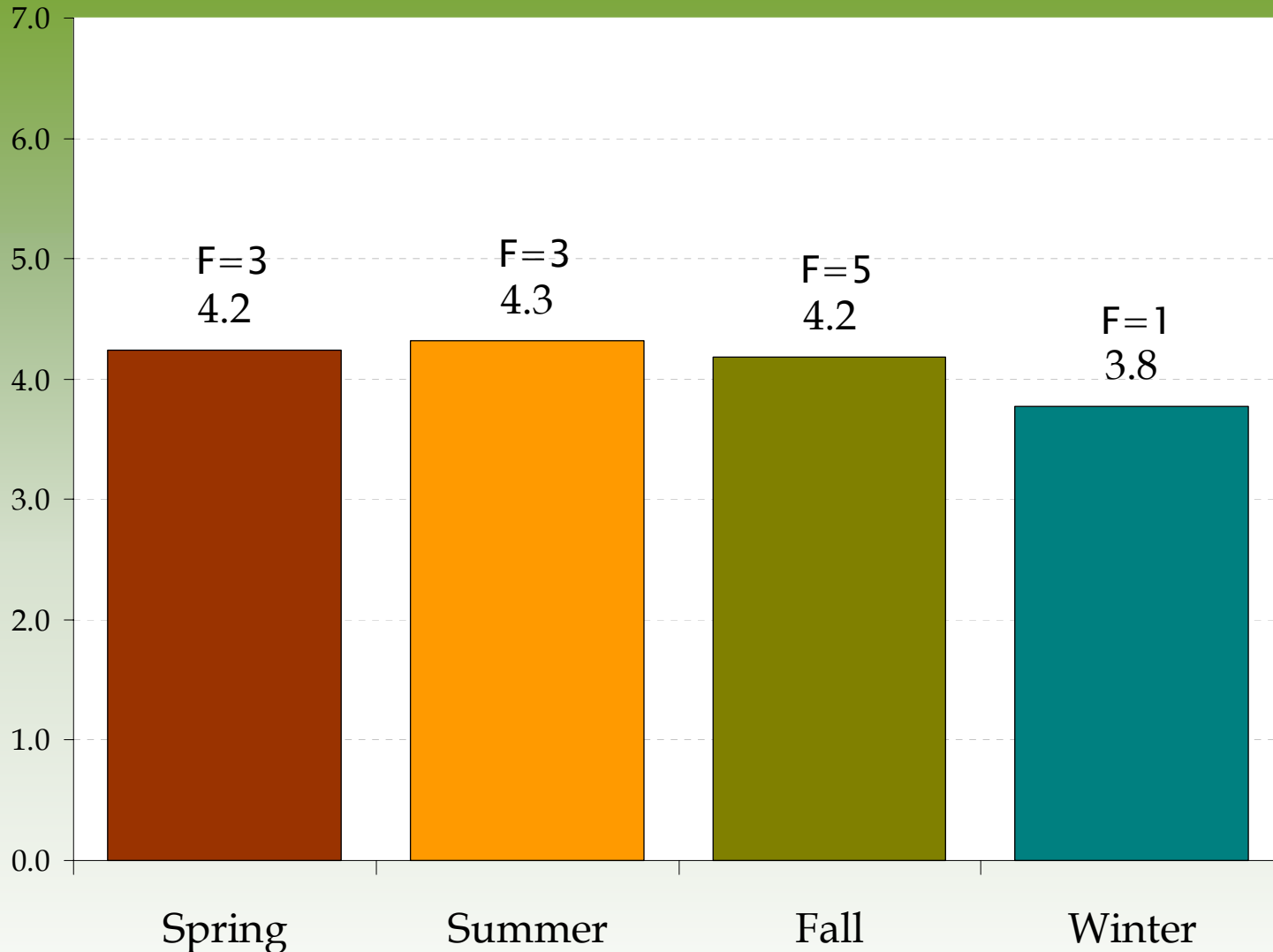
1: Are you a resident of Cambridge?



*Others include Acton, Allston, Arlington, Brookline, Hyde Park, Medford, Milton, Newburyport, Somerville

Public Survey Results

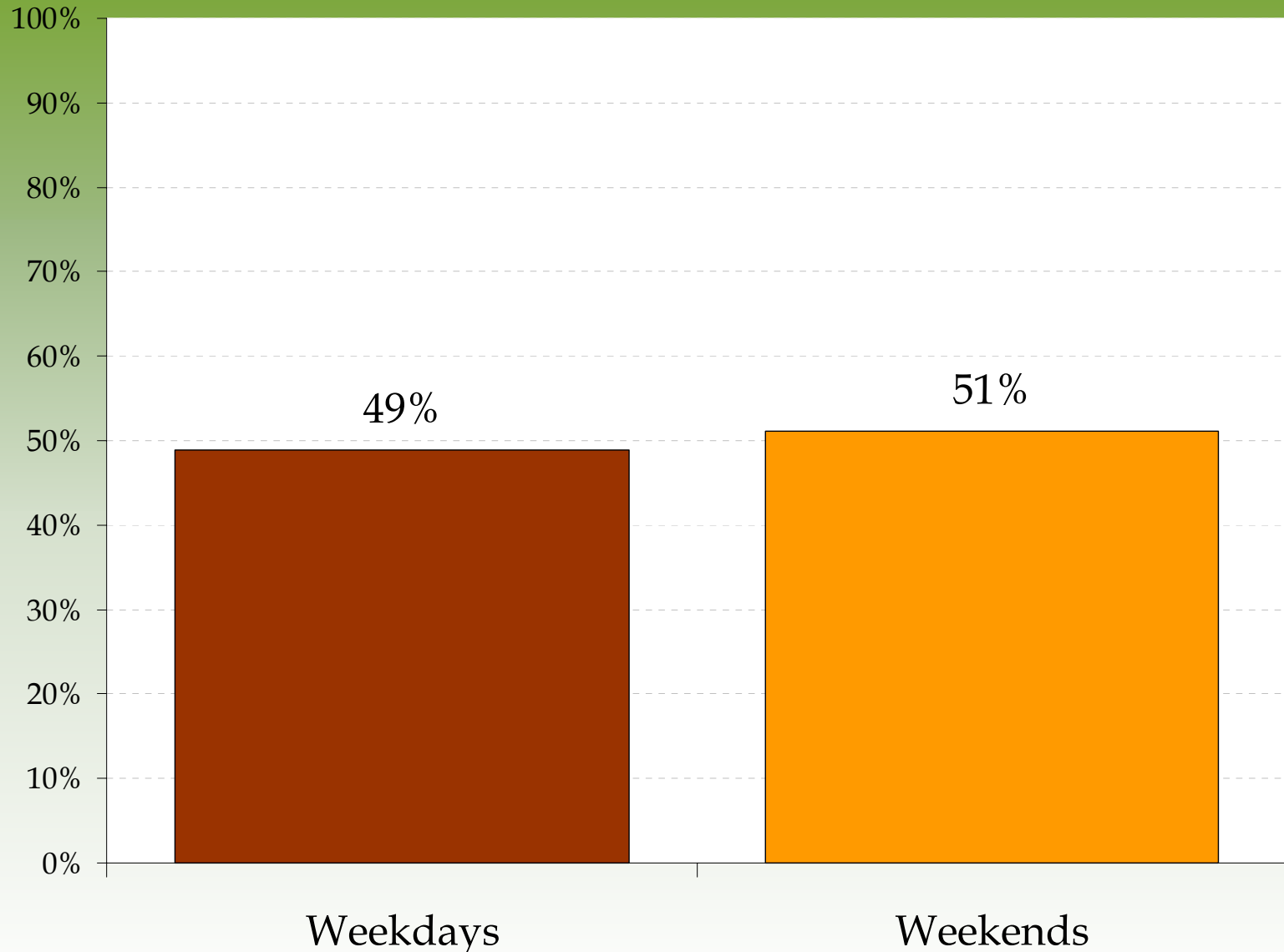
2: How many days per week do you visit?



*F = the most frequent response to the question

Public Survey Results

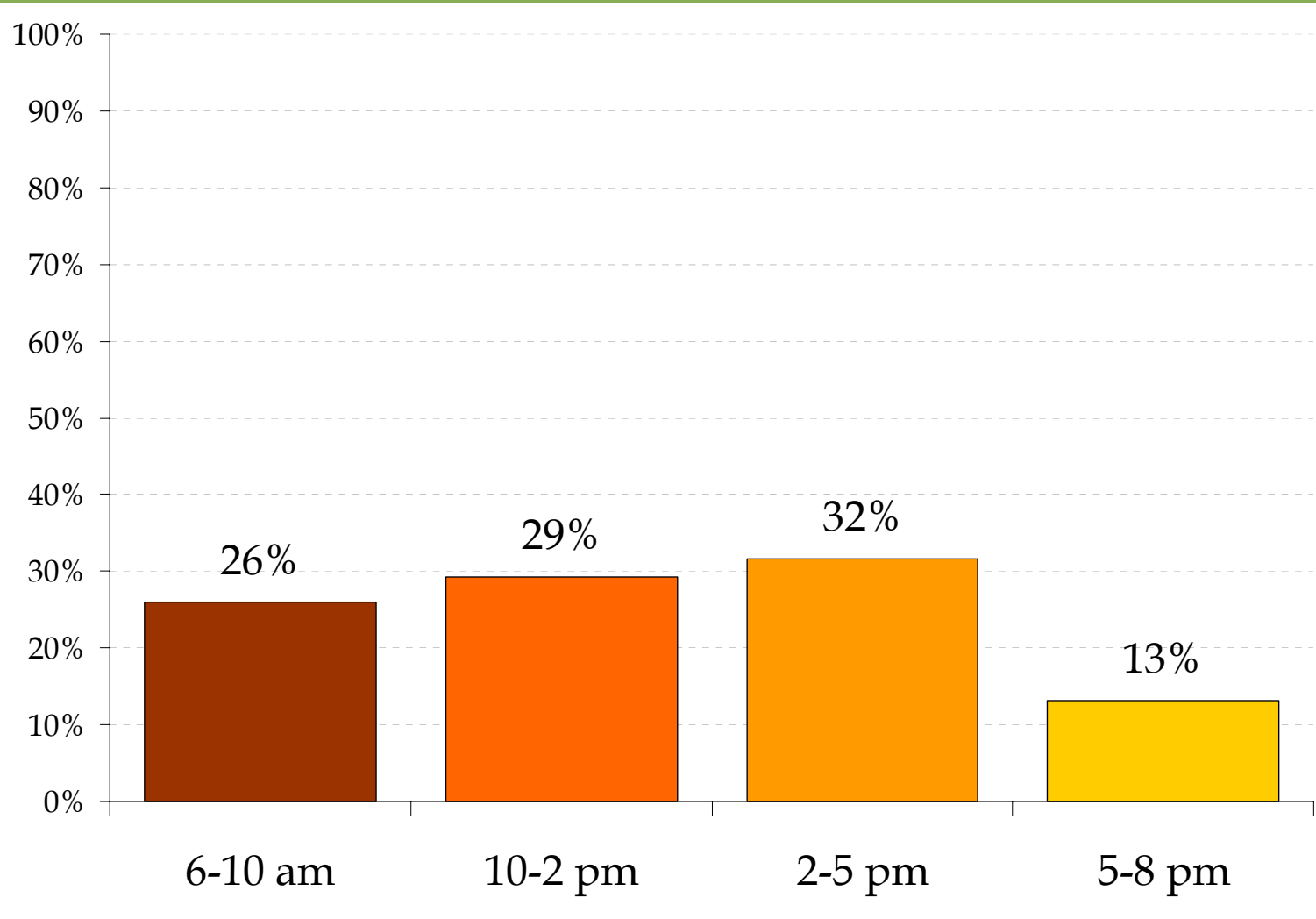
3: Indicate the days that you visit the Reservation



*includes Users who visit on weekdays and weekends

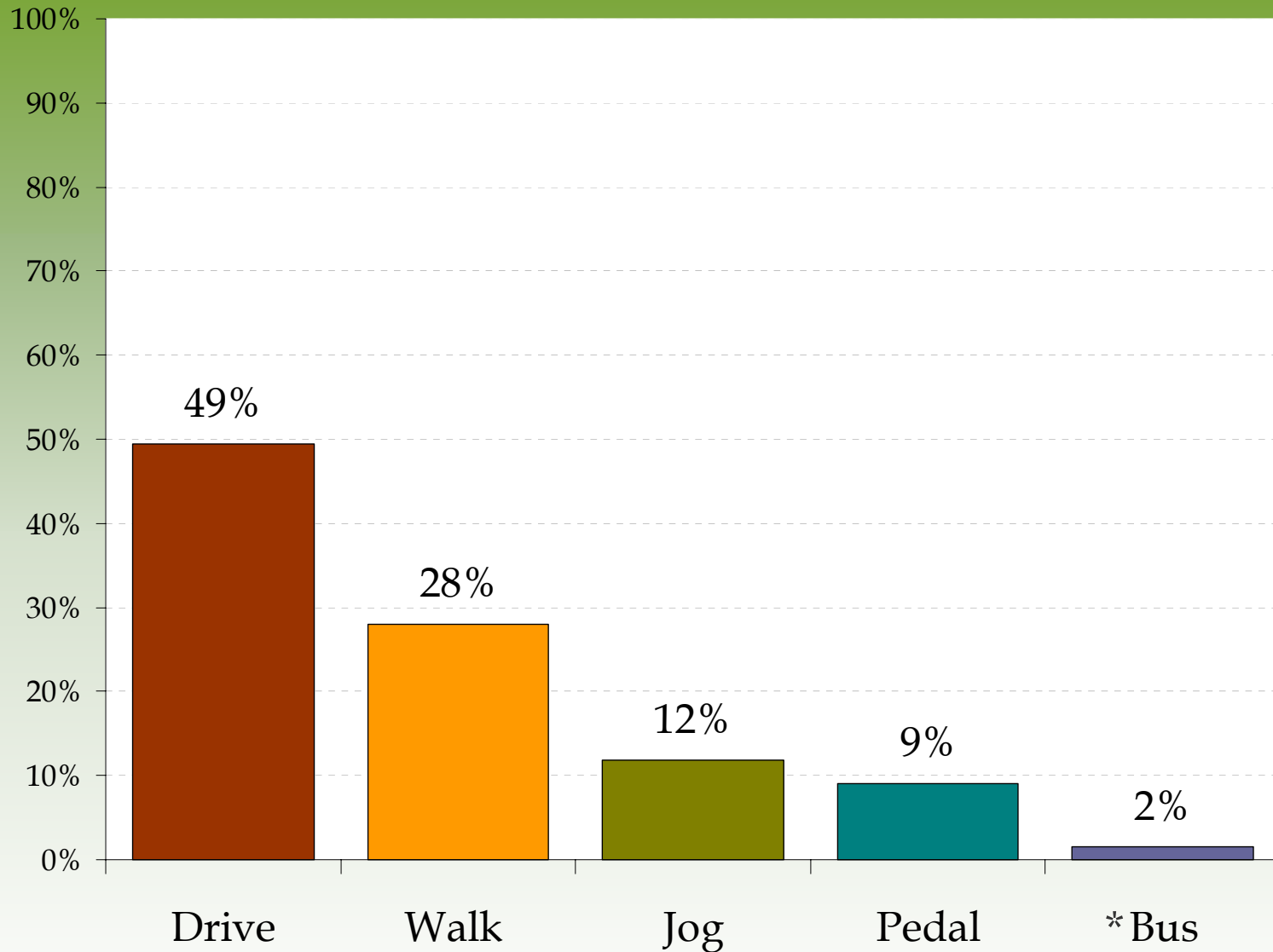
Public Survey Results

3: Indicate the times of day that you visit the Reservation



Public Survey Results

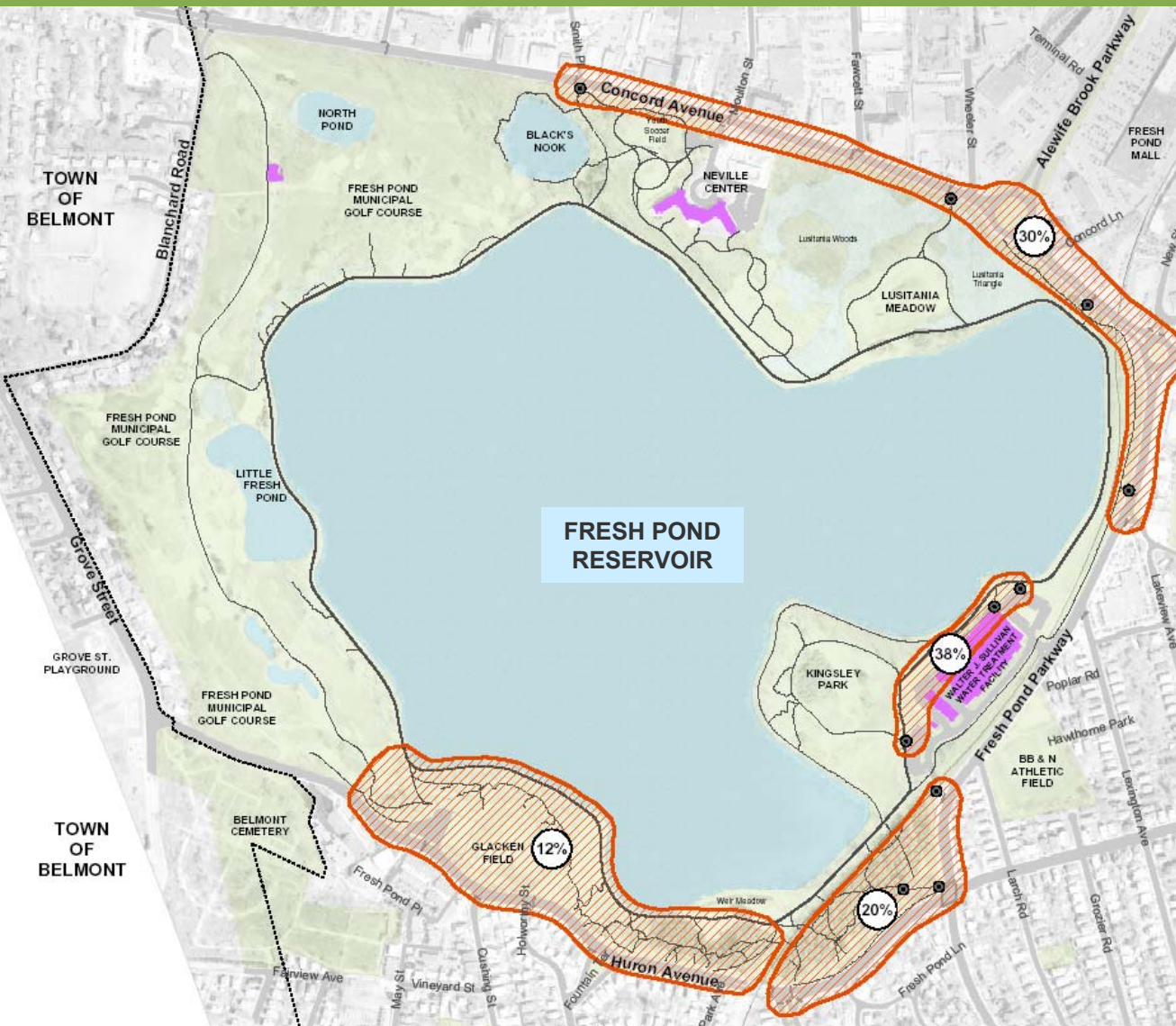
4: How do you get to the Reservation?



*4 people responded taking a bus

Public Survey Results

5: Which access points/zones do you use to enter the Reservation?

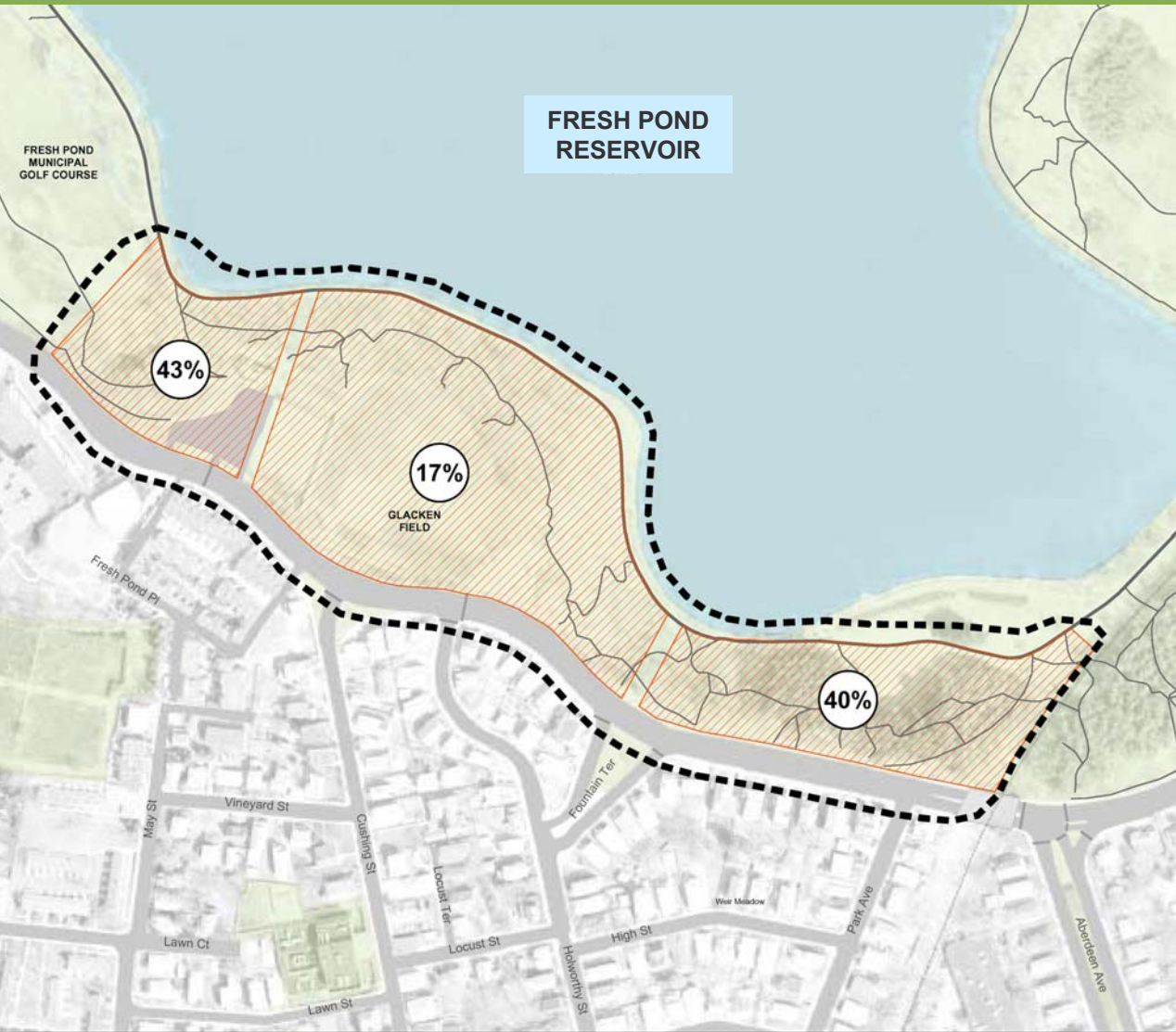


Access zone usage:

- Zone 1: 12%
- Zone 2: 20%
- Zone 3: 38%
- Zone 4: 30%

Public Survey Results

5: Which access points/zones do you use to enter the Reservation?



Percentage use within Zone 1*:

Subzone A: 43%

Subzone B: 17%

Subzone C: 40%

*12% of Total

Public Survey Results

5: Which access points/zones do you use to enter the Reservation?



Percentage use within Zone 2*:

Subzone D: 8%

Access #20: 24%

Access #23: 30%

Access #27: 38%

*20% of Total

Public Survey Results

5: Which access points/zones do you use to enter the Reservation?



Percentage use within Zone 3*:

Access #28: 22%

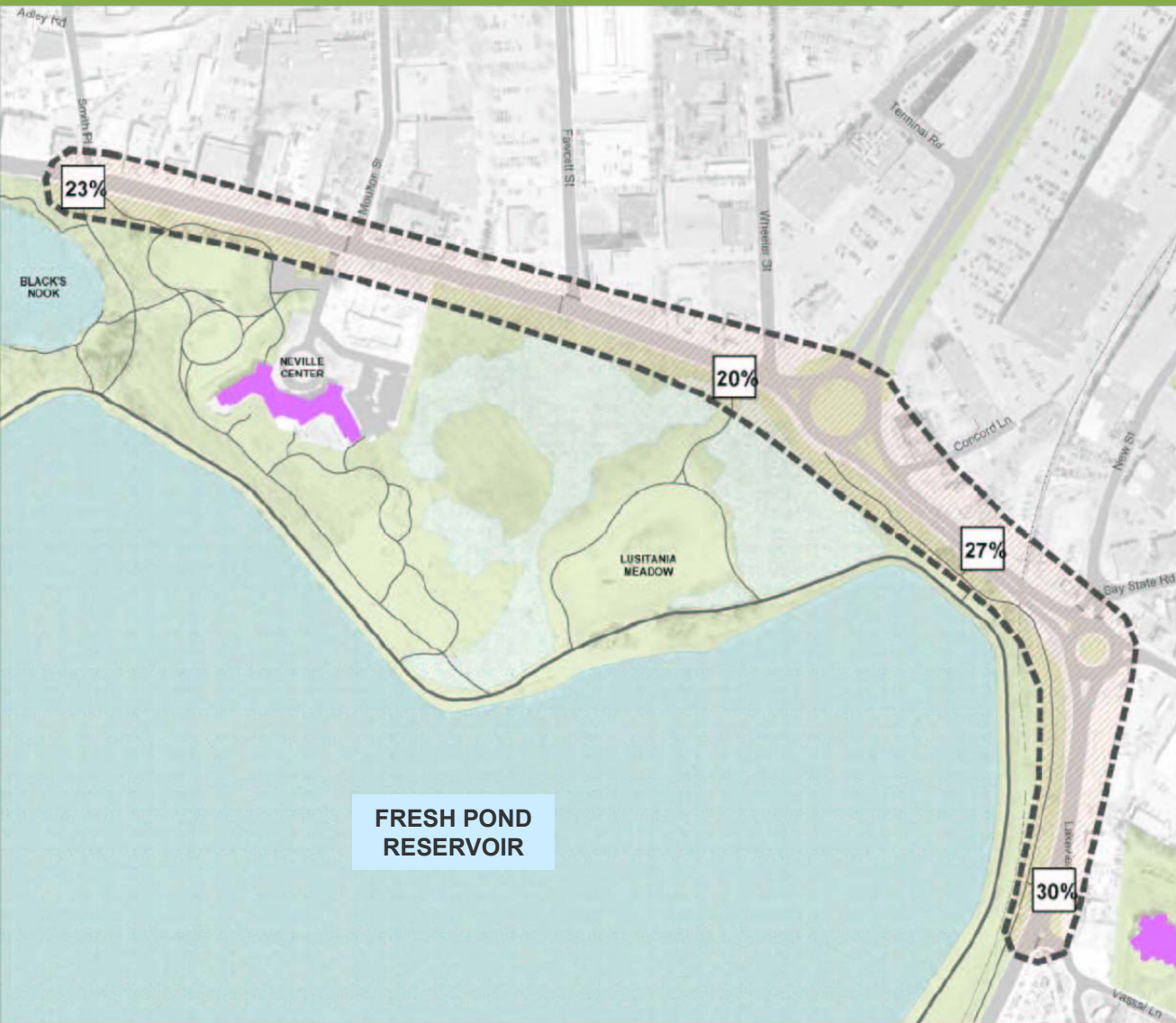
Access #29: 40%

Access #30: 38%

*38% of Total

Public Survey Results

5: Which access points/zones do you use to enter the Reservation?



Percentage use within Zone 4*:

Access #22: 23%

Access #24: 30%

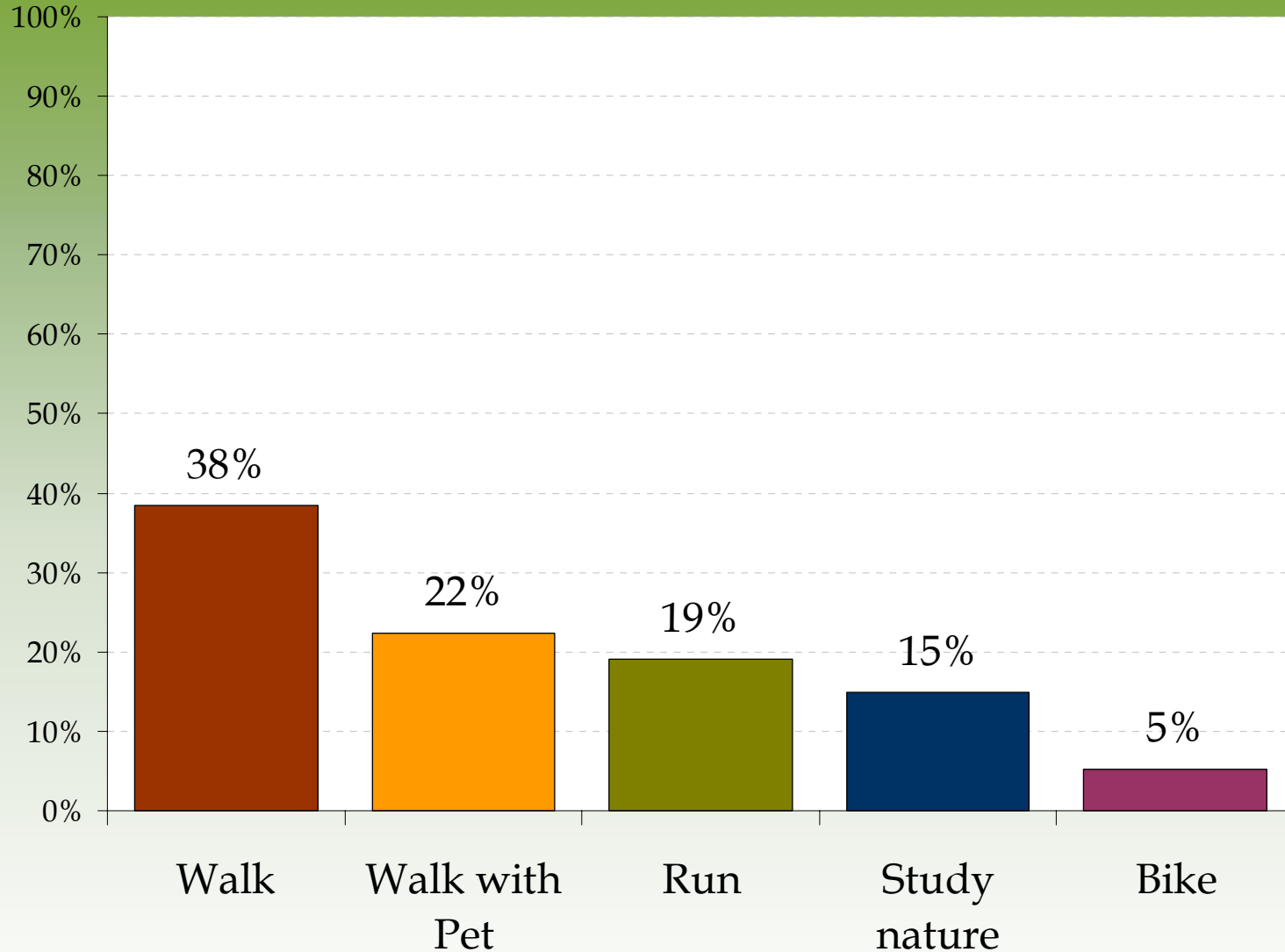
Access #25: 27%

Access #26: 20%

*30% of Total

Public Survey Results

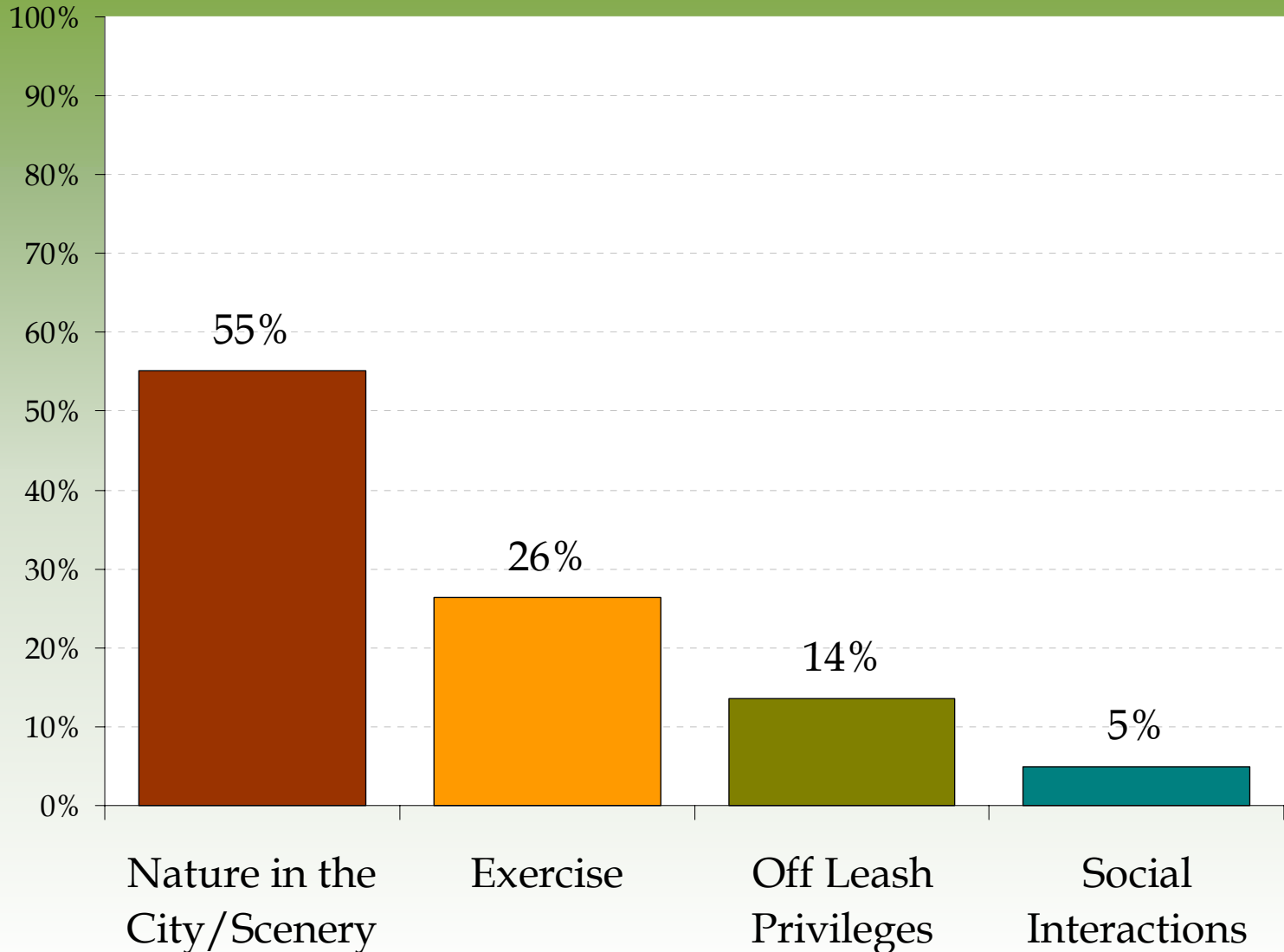
6: What do you do while at the Reservation?



*2/3 of dog owners walk dogs unleashed

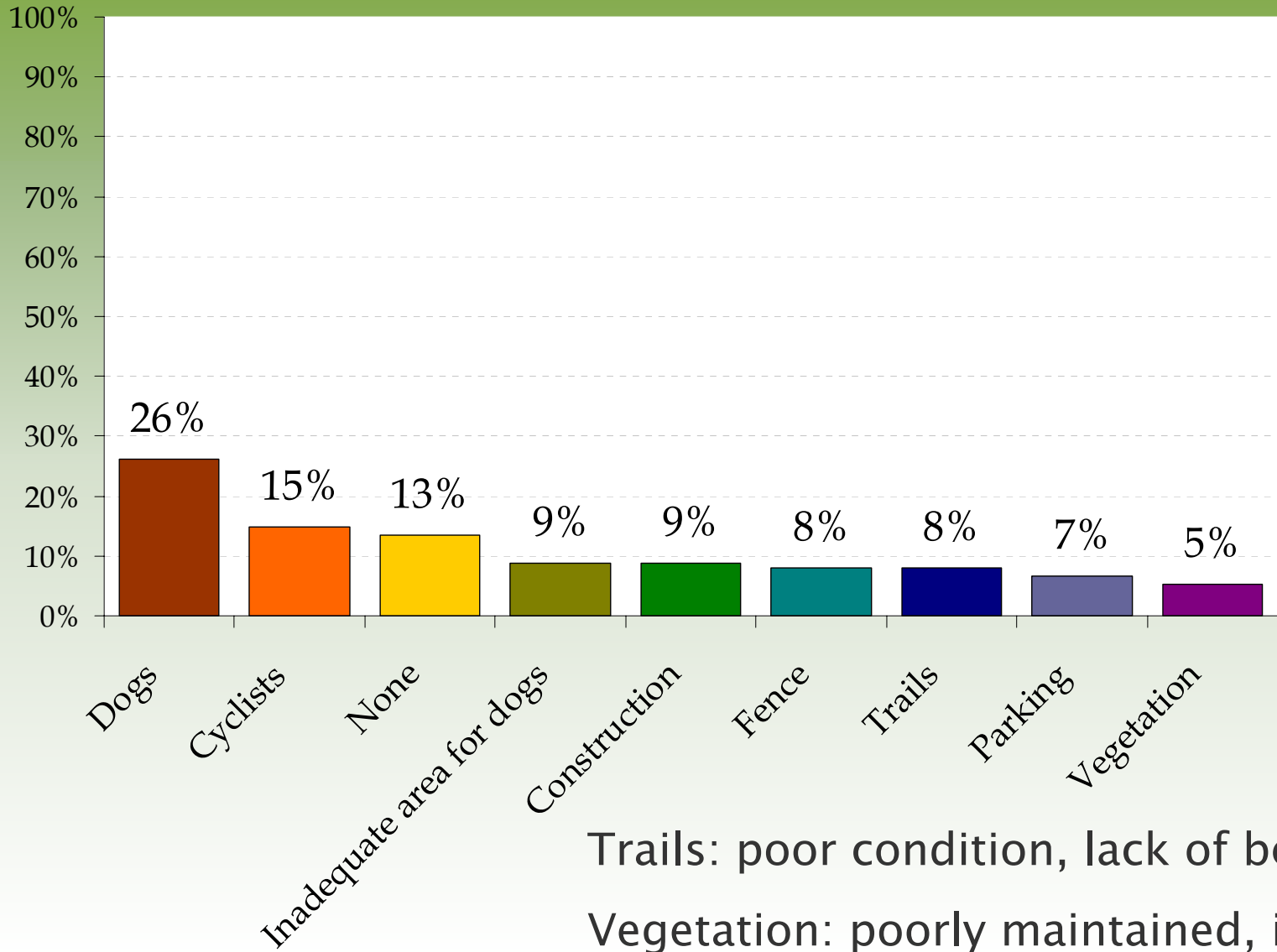
Public Survey Results

7: What do you like most about visiting the Reservation?



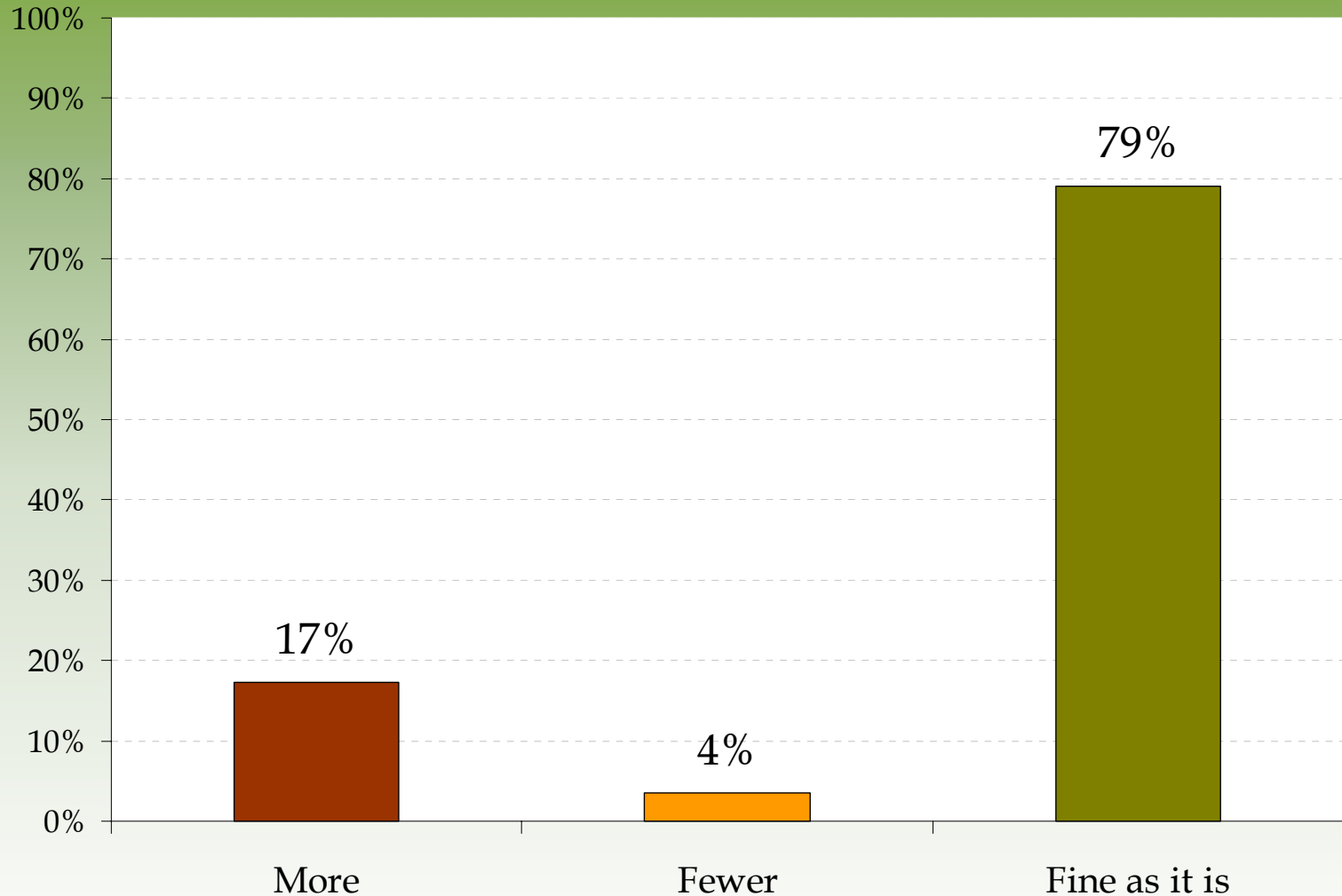
Public Survey Results

8: What do you like least about visiting the Reservation?



Public Survey Results

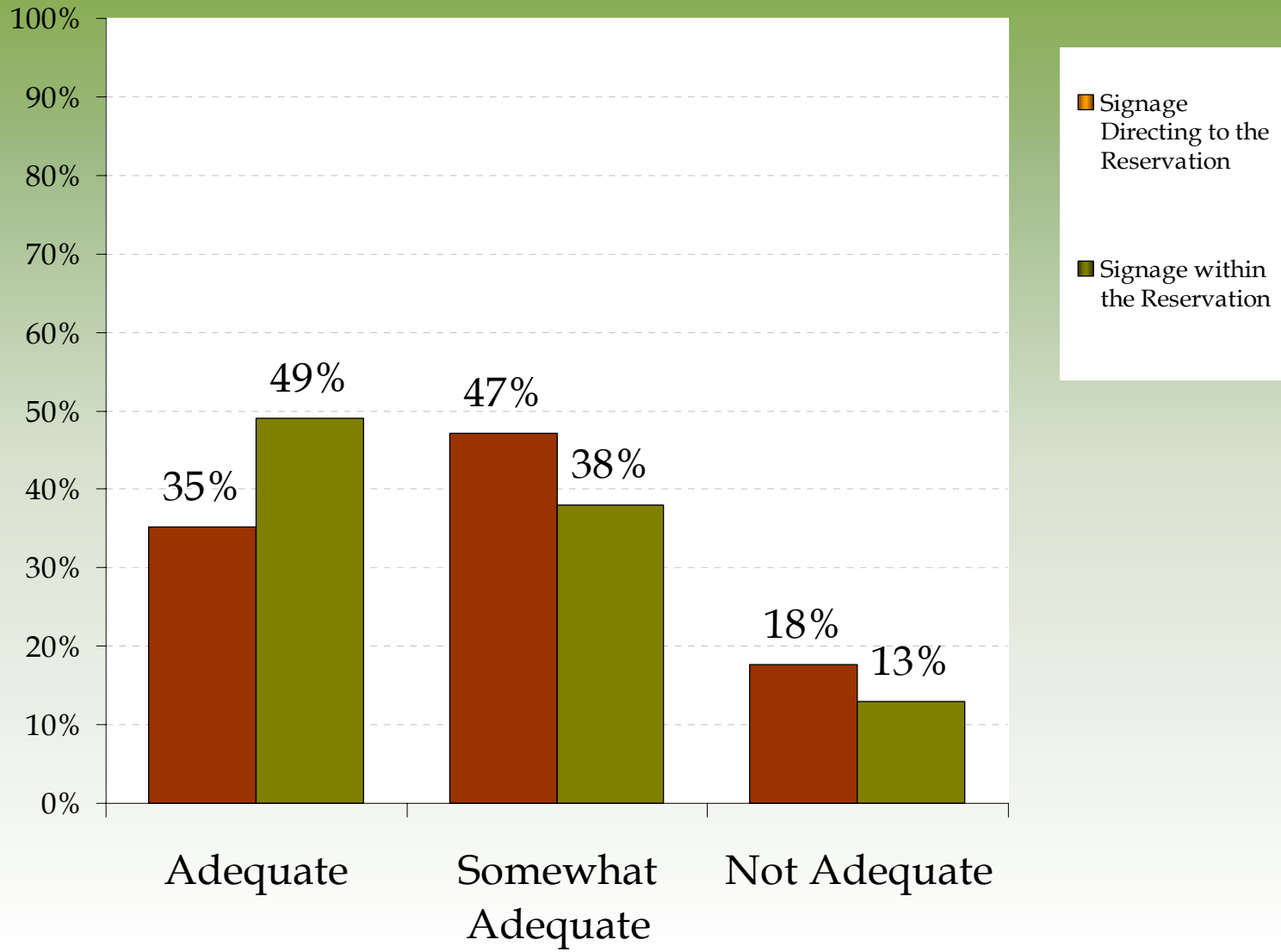
9: Would you like to see more/fewer/no trails or access points?



*58% of survey respondents did not answer the question

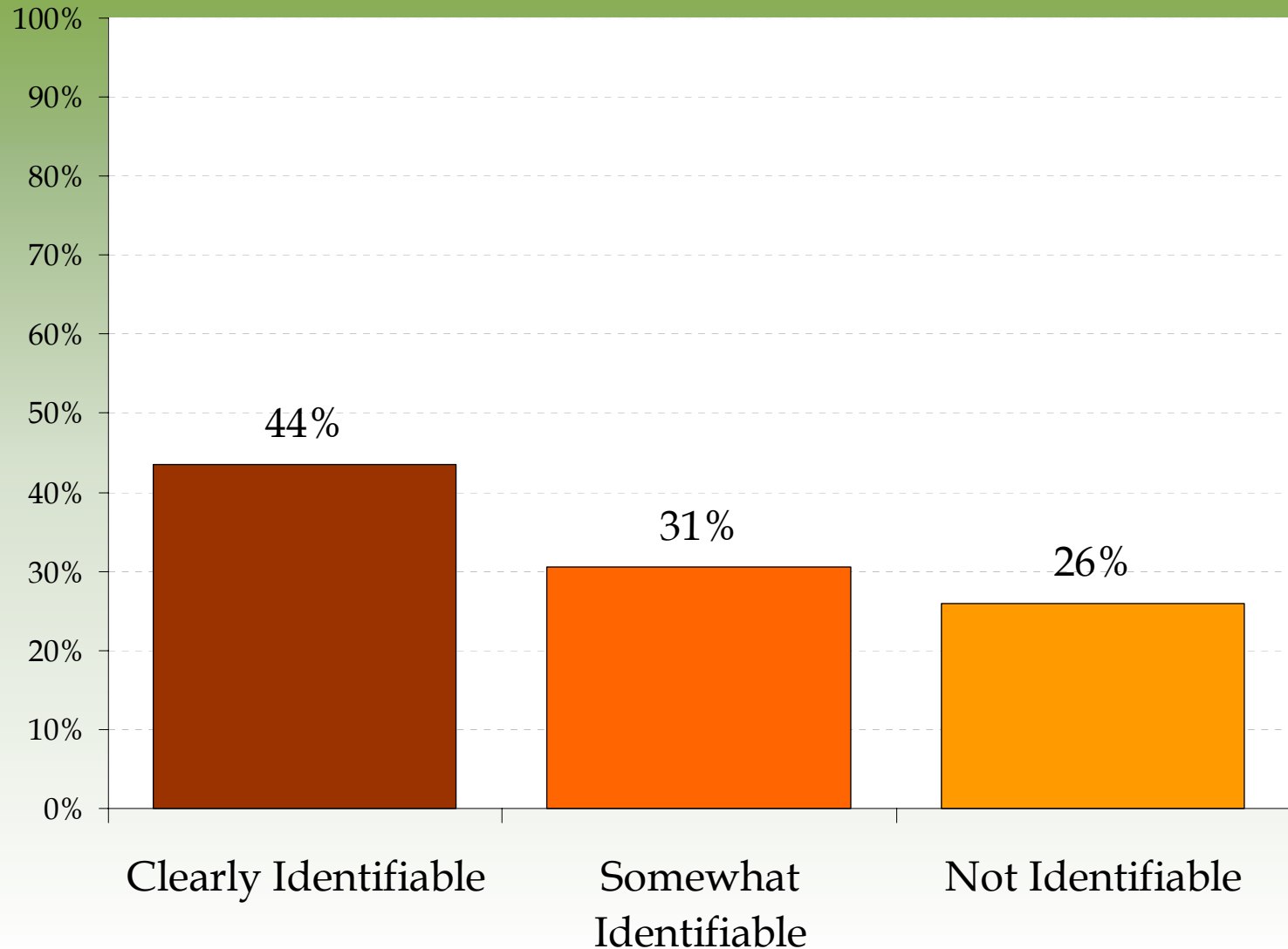
Public Survey Results

10/11: Is there adequate signage directing you to the Reservation/within the Reservation?



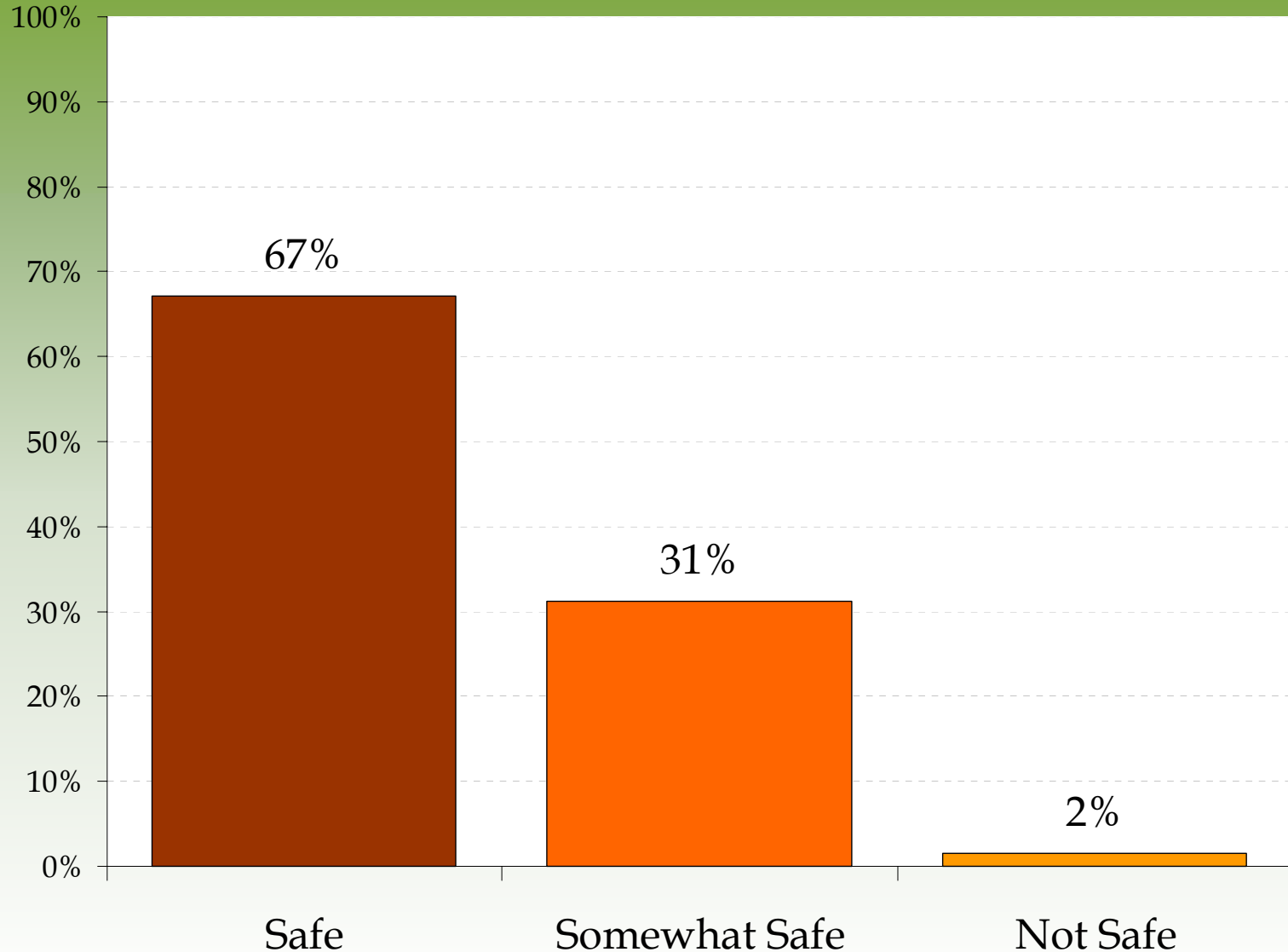
Public Survey Results

12: Are the access points clearly identifiable to other members of public?



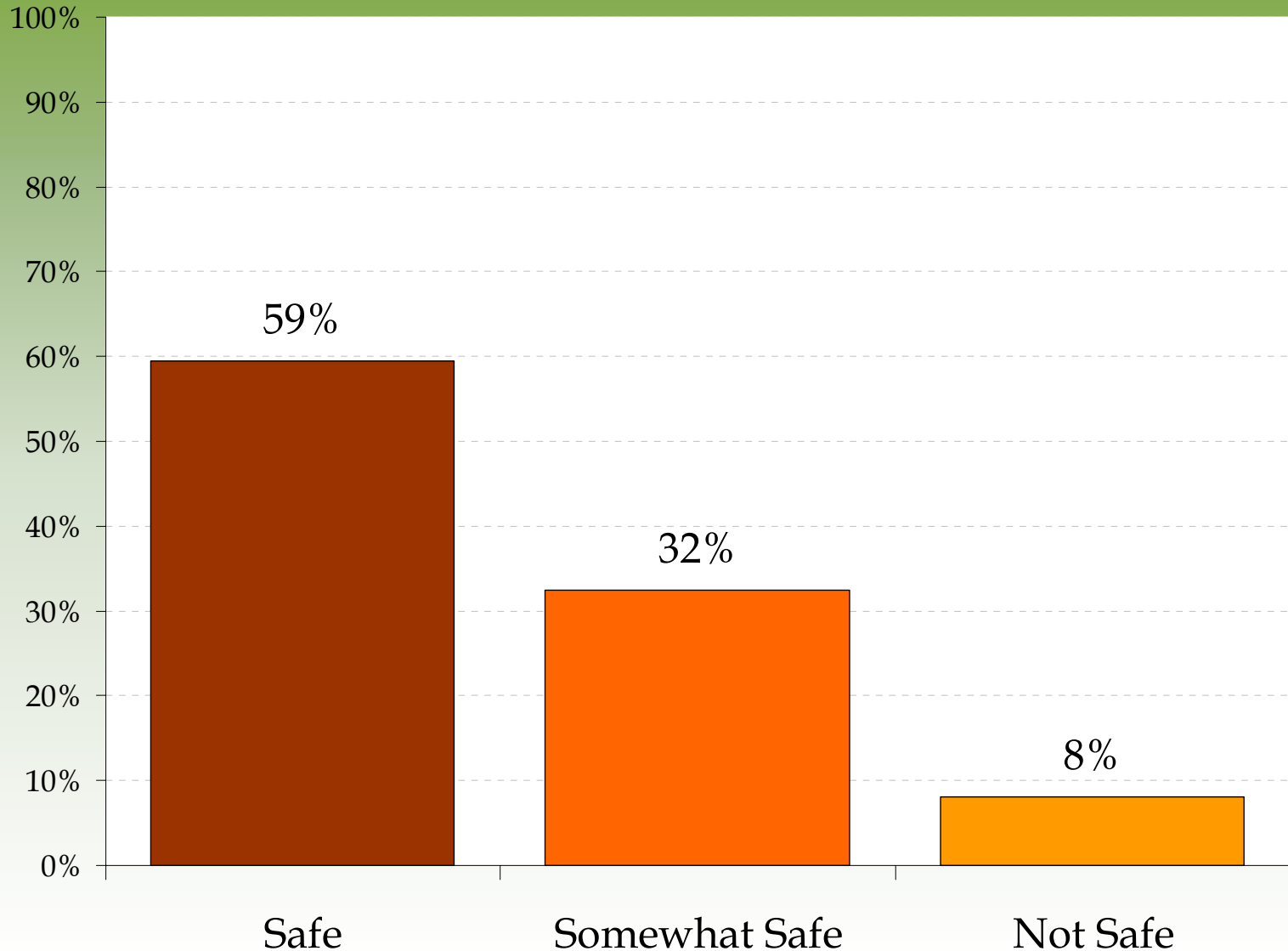
Public Survey Results

13: Do you feel safe within the Reservation?



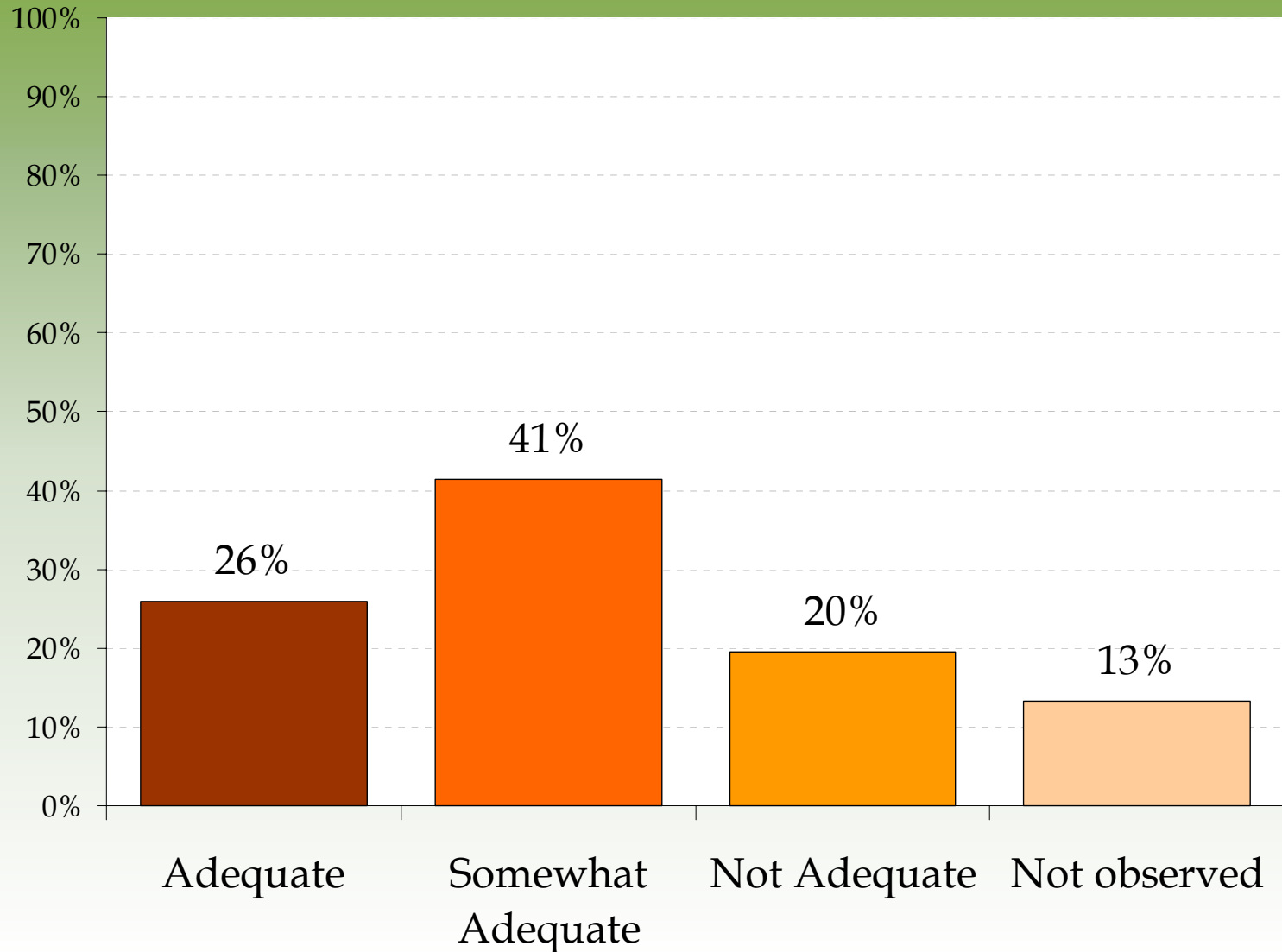
Public Survey Results

14: Are the access points you use to enter and exit the Reservation safe?



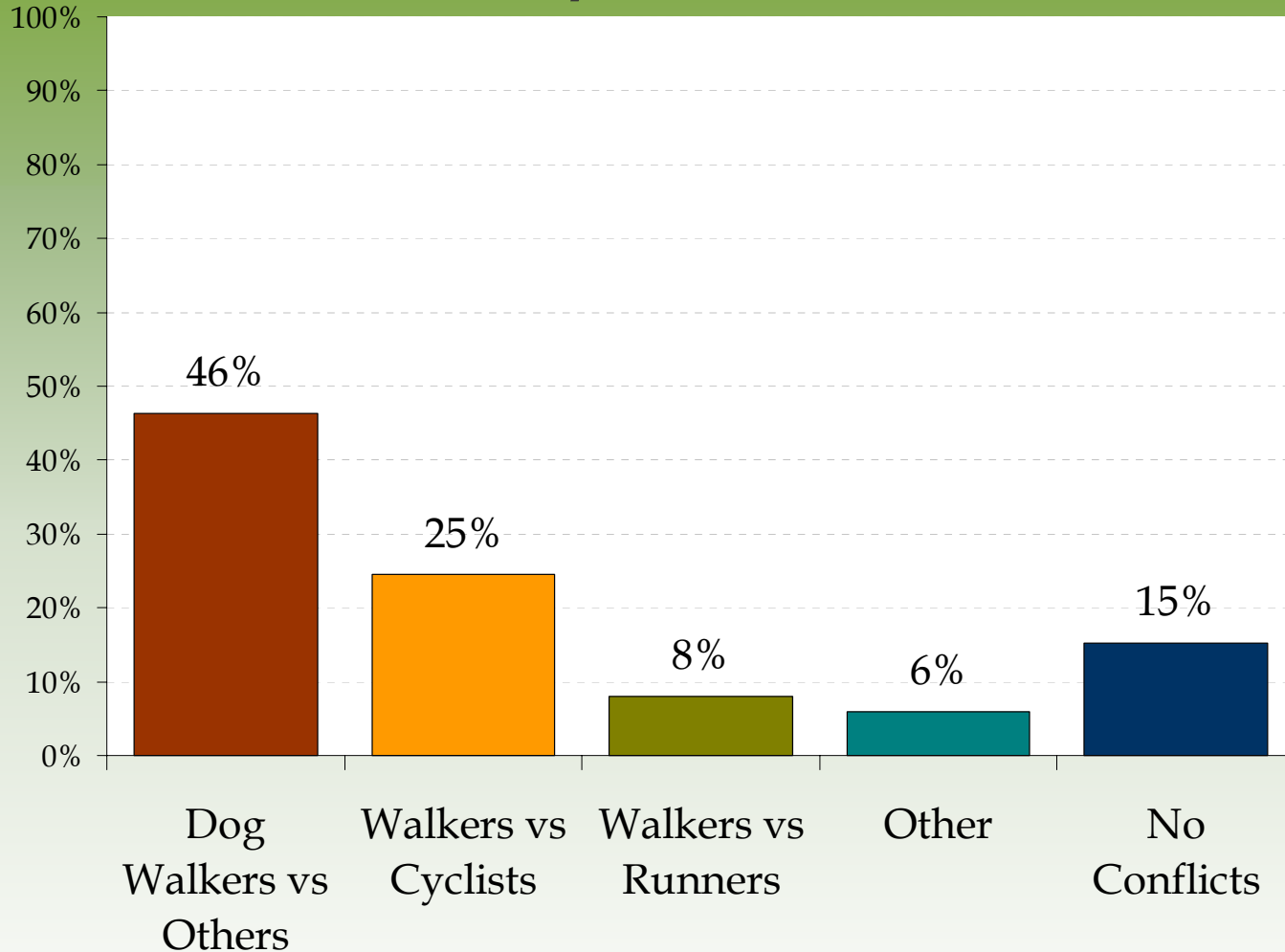
Public Survey Results

15: Is there an adequate number of emergency call boxes within the Reservation?



Public Survey Results

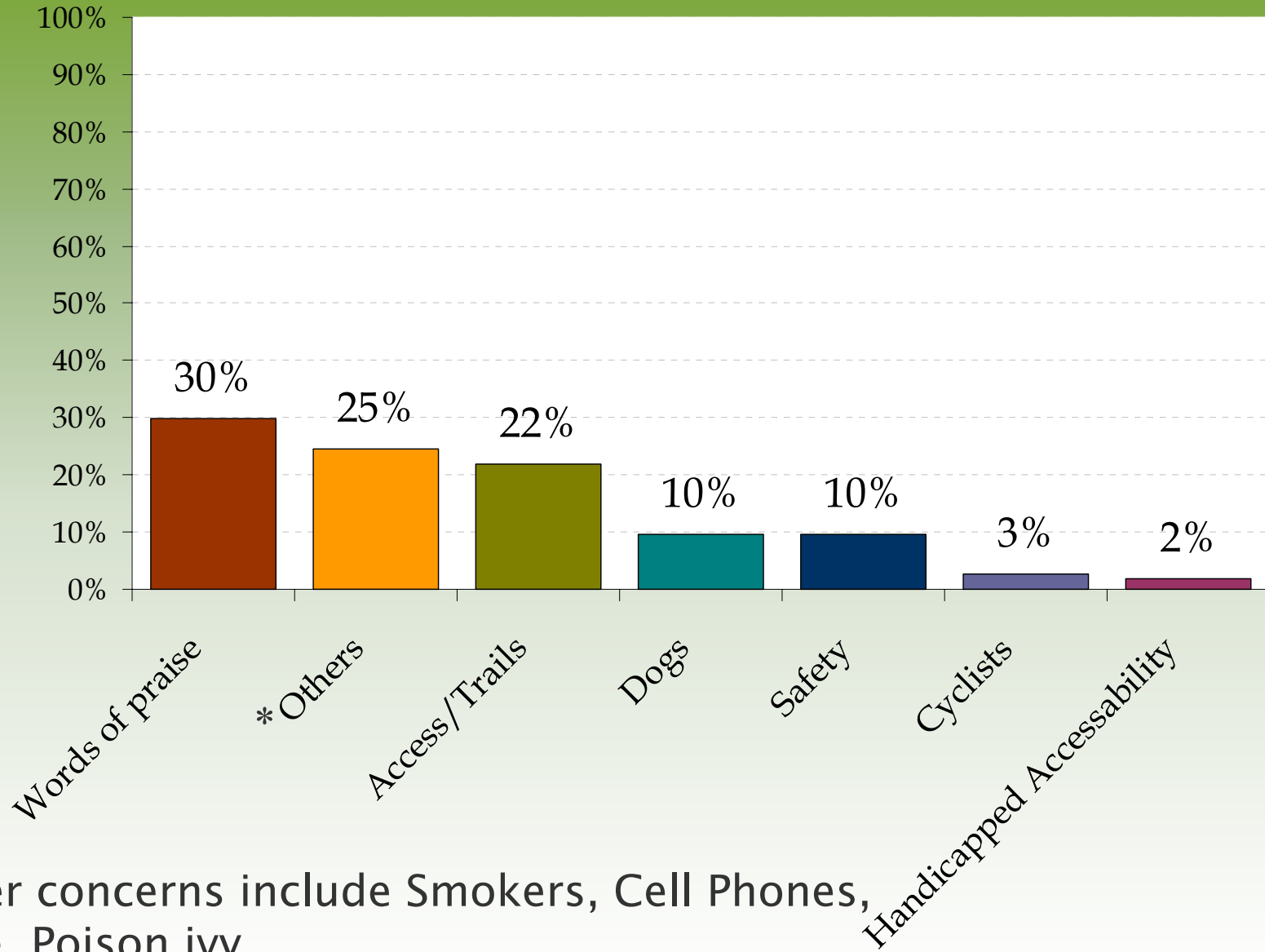
16: What conflicts between user groups at the Reservation concern you most?



Other conflicts include: Golfers vs Other Users, Contractors vs Other Users

Public Survey Results

17: What other concerns do you have?



Circulation and Access Plan

Survey Findings

Perimeter Road/Trail Concerns:

- Unstable trail materials, poor maintenance
- Treacherous when compacted snow and ice persist
- Many are not universally accessible
- Poorly drained in many areas
- Poison ivy along Perimeter Road fence
- Perimeter Road fencing – too high, cuts off views
- Congestion along Perimeter Road, ambiguous traffic pattern

Circulation and Access Plan

Trail Problem Areas:

Kingsley Park



Golf Course Clubhouse



Circulation and Access Plan Survey Findings

User Conflicts:

- Pedestrians and runners, cyclists, rollerbladers and dogs (esp. off-leash)
- Cyclists and joggers, children, and dogs
- Runners and dogs (on- and off-leash)
- Construction vehicles and all user groups
- More areas for stretching, relaxing



Circulation and Access Plan Survey Findings

Concerns raised about dogs:

- Off-leash dogs : not always under voice control
- Dogs do not get cleaned up after
- Leash law is/will be unenforceable



Circulation and Access Plan Survey Findings

Concerns raised by dog owners:

- Lack of grassy, fenced-in dog-only areas
- Need additional fencing to keep dogs out of woods
- Frustration with complaints from users about dogs being off-leash
- Too many restrictive rules, concerns about additional restrictions in the future

Circulation and Access Plan

Survey Findings

Public Health/Safety Concerns:

- Trail conditions – Golf course trail, icy trails, drainage
- Dog droppings
- Dog/human contact (illicit)
- Bicycle accidents
- Poison ivy adjacent to Perimeter Road fence
- Safety at night (no lighting)
- Speed limit along Perimeter Road – needs to be posted and enforced

Circulation and Access Plan Survey Findings

Concerns Related to Facilities:

- Lack of public toilets
- Inadequate numbers of water fountains, trash barrels, and benches along Perimeter Road
- Uninspiring and boring signage
- Inadequate on-site signage about current projects
- Inadequate parking for non-residents

Circulation and Access Plan Survey Findings

Other concerns:

- Smokers, cell phone users, ambient traffic noise
- Invasive vegetation, non-native vegetation along Golf course, too much tree-thinning
- “Park” in general disrepair, Golf Course has relatively too many resources per person
- Uncertainty about being able to use the Reservation as freely in the future

Circulation and Access Plan Summary

Next Steps:

- Analyze Findings and Draw Inferences
- Update Draft Goals (public input)
- Update Project Webpage
- Public Meeting No. 3 – Presentation of Draft Circulation and Access Plan
- Identify Priority Project(s) and schedule

Circulation & Access Plan

Draft Goals

1. Balance user needs and minimize user conflicts within the Reservation
2. Provide for universal accessibility into and within the Reservation
3. Integrate pathways to improve ecological sustainability and water quality
4. Reduce car-generated trips to the Reservation

Circulation & Access Plan

Draft Goals

5. Identify priority areas and a phasing strategy for implementation
6. Create a GIS-based model for use as a Reservation management tool